

Edgefield County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Better trained and skilled workforce
2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Educational achievement does not equal 4-year college education – emphasis should be on skilled jobs requiring two-year technical college
 - Attracting and retaining quality teachers – make the profession more attractive to the “best and brightest” with competitive salaries and incentives to teach in areas of poverty
 - Time on task in the classroom by eliminating student discipline problems

Strengths:

 - (none listed)

Challenges:

 - Concern w/ definition of new graduation rate – success of high school can come one to two years later
 - PACT does not provide individual student diagnostic information to teachers that could be used to enhance learning for students
 - Growing Hispanic student population taking all of the low skilled / low wage jobs many residents depend on getting
 - Tremendous issue of high school students not being able to “catch up”
 - Cuts in funding during economic downturn and its affect on student achievement
 - Cultural values – lack of disconnect between parent expectation and knowledge of schools
 - Lack of community programs that support student learning (in process of establishing a recreational program in the county)
3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - After-school programs are working well but limited to few school because of funding
4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Need for churches to provide homework centers and check student report cards to emphasis importance of school and high expectations